

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12740 110827Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 110803Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3196

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12740

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JA, CB

SUBJ: JAPAN APPROACHES CAMBODIANS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS

1. FONOFF FIRST SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVDIR ITO INFORMED US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT JAPANESE AMB TO US SAITO CONFERRED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS WITH CAMBODIAN FONMIN SARIN CHHAK IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 8 REGARDING "NORMALIZATION" OF CAMBODIAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS. SARIN CHHAK WAS RECEPTIVE, AND PROMISED TO FORWARD JAPAN'S PRESENTATION TO PHNOM PENH

HE TOLD AMB SAITO CAMBODIA, AS A PRIORITY, WISHED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH IST CLOSE NEIGHBORS. FONOFF REGARDS SARIN CHHAK'S REMARKS AS FAVORABLE, EVEN THOUGH JAPAN IS NOT A CLOSE NEIGHBOR.

2. AS FURTHER INDICATOR OF CORDIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD JAPAN, ITO REMINED EMBOFF THAT WHEREAS INITIAL ATTEMPTS TO DELIVER NOTE VERBALES TO GRUNK EMBASSY IN PEKING RECOGNIZING THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN PHNOM PENH WERE REBUFFED, LATELY, NOTES ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED. MOREOVER, RECENTLY SIHANOUK INDIRECTLY LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE WOULD LIKE SOME PICTORIAL BOOKS IN COLOR ON JAPAN. GOJ EMBASSY PRESENTED THREE BOOKS TO SIHANOUK, WHO IN RETURN, DURING RECENT RETURN TO PEKING AFTER HIS HANOI TRIP, SENT A SHEAF OF SONGS COMPOSED BY HIMSELF ALONG WITH HIS

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12740 110827Z

NAME CARD TO THE JAPANESE. ITO STRESSED THAT THIS EXCHANGE

MUST BE HELD IN TIGHTEST SECRECY.

3. COMMENT: FONOFF IS DELIGHTED WITH ENCOURAGING RESPONSE. WITH
ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSY IN HANOI APPARENTLY IMMINENT (SEPTTEL),
PROSPECTS OF JAPANESE PRESENCE IN ALL INDOCHINA STATES TITILLATES
FONOFF SINCE THIS WOULD BE A NICE POLITICAL PLUS FOR GOJ.
EMBASSY NOTES THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH
WOULD ALSO PROVIDE US A WINDOW INTO CAMBODIA.
HODGSON

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